



## Spring Commencement Graduation Ceremony Friday, May 5 @ 10 a.m. - Health & Sports Center

# the antelope

University of Nebraska at Kearney

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# Padgett takes leap into nursing world

*UNMC graduating senior gives advice to current and future students and recounts time in the nursing program*

**RACHEL OVERBY**

*Antelope Staff*

College can give a lot of stress to students especially to those who don't have a major or passion for a certain field. Luckily for senior Ashley Padgett, finding her calling wasn't very hard. Padgett a nursing student from Shelton always knew she belonged in the medical field.

Although she wasn't sure where exactly she fit in the beginning, after a few job shadows Padgett decided nursing was for her. She also saw how

much the nurses helped her sister while she struggled with her Type 1 diabetes. Padgett says those nurses were her inspiration to pursue nursing as a career.

Padgett was very involved on campus as a member of Alpha Omicron Pi, serving on Panhellenic, Thompson Scholars and a member of the Health Science club. All of these things



*Photo by Rachel Overby*

Ashley Padgett is graduating this semester with a BS in Nursing. She already has a job lined up and will be staying in Kearney with her boyfriend and two dogs while working at Good Samaritan Hospital.

**Q&A** See more page 2

# Trump wages war on mainstream media

*Harsh tweets point fingers at "fake news" on regular basis*

**RACHEL AREHART**

*Antelope Staff*

During last year's campaign season, Donald Trump coined the phrase "fake news" while accusing a CNN reporter of misleading the public. The phrase stuck and now Trump uses it frequently while talking about the media.

Trump continues to slam the mainstream media through tweets and campaign-style rallies claiming they report false information, or "fake news" as he calls it.

Trump tweeted in February, "Any negative polls are fake news, just like the CNN, ABC, NBC polls in the election..."

## Trump takes dump on news



"Simple,  
if I like the news  
it's real. If I don't  
like the news,  
it's fake."

"What's the  
difference between  
real news and  
fake news?"

and, "The FAKE NEWS media (failing @nytimes, @NBCNews, @ABC, @CBS, @CNN) is not my enemy, but the enemy of the American People!"

"What Trump means when he says "fake news" is news that he doesn't like. It has nothing to do with whether they are false, a mistake, or real," said Dr. Ralph Hanson, a professor in the Department of Communication and author of a paper about fake news presented at the Western Social Science Association.

"Fake means he doesn't like it. There is such a thing as fake news and there is fake news about him out there and it is being done for profit, but I don't think our major news outlets are fabricating things," Dr. Hanson said.

Ford Clark, senior lecturer in the

PADGETT from page 1

helped her get into nursing school along with her good grades, but Padgett says being a Certified Nursing Assistant and medication aide really helped her prepare for life as a nurse. "It really helped with my patient communication and bedside manner. I also could confidently go into any patient's room and know I could assist them in some way," Padgett said.

program when they were in West Center, but I'm glad we moved. We have a skills lab, simulation rooms and nice classrooms with interactive technology.

With our badges, we could study there anytime we wanted. It was way easier to have a group study session there compared to the library. And we had our own parking lot so we didn't have to fight with everyone over parking spots.

**Was there anything you wish you knew before you started nursing school?**

I wish I would've bought an NCLEX (which is our state board) prep book a long time ago and looked over it when we had time off school. It would've helped with topics and school and I probably would not be so nervous about it now. Also, even though I took Anatomy and Physiology with Janet Steele, a lot of my classmates didn't and felt unprepared for certain classes because of that. So take

those hard classes because they're going to prepare you in the long run. It's better to go into nursing school with a good base or else you'll struggle.

**Do you have any advice for students planning on graduating from UNMC next spring?**

Be prepared for a hard year. Someone once told me it gets easier as you go and that's a lie. My second year at UNMC



“One thing I won't miss: the red scrubs. Literally everyone in the hospital makes a comment about them.”

/ Ashely Padgett

was really challenging, so be ready to constantly be at school. This summer I would say work in health care and study your ATI books or an NCLEX prep book. It'll really just help you in the long run. Lastly, work hard, ask questions, and use your teachers and clinical instructors as resources.

**Would you change anything from your time in college?**

I feel like I've had a really good college experience! One thing I wish I could've fit in was studying abroad. I know a few girls who went to UNMC in Lincoln fit it into their last semester before nursing school, and some of my classmates went to Oman and Norway during nursing school. I wish I would've made time for it like they did. I

love to travel and it looks like an amazing experience. I say if you have the chance or are considering it: do it.

**Is there anything you will miss about being a UNMC student?**

I'll miss the people. I would never say I was best friends with every person in my class, but nursing school really brings you together. You take every class together, do 12 hour days at the hospital and stay up half the night working on projects or studying for tests. I've become friends with people I would've never guessed I had anything in common with. I'm sad that we all will go our different ways, but excited to see all that my classmates will accomplish. One thing I won't miss: the red scrubs. Literally everyone in the hospital makes a comment about them.

**What are your plans after graduation?**

I accepted a job at Good Samaritan Hospital in the Critical Care Resource Pool. But first the NCLEX! Then maybe someday back to school, but I've got plenty of time to make some money and learn all there is about being a nurse!

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Both writers and photographers will join as guests with Schwarz discussing their stories featured in print that issue. Catch the action live or on podcast!

# Partisan problems erupt

*Blindly following one political party or another creates culture of sycophants*



**ELLIOT GONNELLA**

*Antelope Staff*

I choose to keep my independent as my political status for two reasons. One, it offers me a good line to bail on conversations at family dinners when politics come up and I want to keep my food down. Two, I don't feel bonded to a name and can make my decisions based on what I think would be best. While I do typically align with the Democrats more than I do with Republicans, I don't have my feet nailed to the floor and don't feel a sense of obligation to vote with a group.

While there are a few things that can be viewed in a strictly yes or no sense such as genocide, discrimination and rape, it is crippling to view other situations in such a stark light. Away from politics, the world cannot be viewed entirely as black and white.

A good example recently is that former President Barak Obama is set to give a speech about health care at an event hosted by a Wall Street investment firm, and is being paid \$400,000 dollars to do so.

Instantly, the brigades of Green

Partiers and Berniebros were up in arms about the paid speech. If you had some of them in your social media feed, I have no doubt you saw at least one complaint. This "story" was then picked up and paraded around by semi-well known individuals who are on the far left of the political spectrum. In their mind, Wall Street is irredeemable and exists only as a cancer to benefit the billionaires. The former president is "selling out" and becoming a corrupt corporate fat cat in their minds.

a powerful speaker and his skills will be in high demand. If I had the skills and talent to earn that type of money in a single night, I would guarantee you I would use it to the best of my ability.

It is possible to be for the reform of Wall Street while also supporting it. I own several shares of stock in large companies, but I also think that some changes need to be made to ensure ethical trading and banking. The two are not mutually exclusive; you can have one and the

mentality that many have these days.

It may seem easy and seductive to see everything in black and white, but that doesn't accomplish anything. We have seen what absolutes can do to individuals. Refusal to compromise in times of conflict can only make the situation worse and blind devotion to an ideology or individual is not a symbol of greatness.

We as humans are able to think for ourselves and form our own opinions on matters. We are wasting that talent if we blindly agree on political issues simply because someone famous said it or it has been worked into political canon. Just because you disagree with one item on the political spectrum does not mean you are ostracized from it entirely. Only fools and demagogues believe that.

So, if you are a registered Democrat, Republican or Independent voter, good for you. But don't let that title define your beliefs. Few things in this world can be solved with all or nothing, even fewer with a them vs. us attitude. Build your beliefs off of what you believe in, and not from what others want for their benefit.



Does Wall Street have problems that can be fixed? Yes, of course. Is it irredeemable? No.



/ Elliot Gonnella

And if you truly believe that, grow up. Does Wall Street have problems that can be fixed? Yes, of course. Is it irredeemable? No.

Giving speeches is not the same as making a blood pact with a devil; it is simply using your talents to earn a living. Obama may not be hurting when it comes to his savings, but he has decided that he is not going to just sit back and let the dust collect. Whether or not you like him, he is

other at the same time. The story itself is insignificant to the rest of the news that has been going on in the world. This is an excellent example of fake outrage by a segment of voters who acted like a spoiled child because they didn't get their way. It's just a story to have some agitators whip up followers so they could get some attention by attacking someone far more popular than them. Nothing more, nothing less, though it does show the perceived purist

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# Vlasnik to deliver commencement address

## UNK COMMUNICATIONS

Graduate and undergraduate degrees for 668 will be conferred at the University of Nebraska at Kearney commencement exercises at 10 a.m. Friday (May 5).

Mathematics teacher Amber Vlasnik, awardee of the 2017 Nebraska Teacher of the Year, will deliver the commencement address. Vlasnik graduated from UNK in 2008 and teaches at Lincoln High School. She has earned her master's degree and is pursuing a doctorate in educational studies from University of Nebraska-Lincoln. At

Lincoln High, Vlasnik has served as math department chair, a math instructional coach and instructional team leader, and was designated a Noyce Master Teaching Fellow.

Morgan Prochnow of Seward will be a summa cum laude graduate on Friday, with a degree in communication disorders. She will give the senior class reflection. A member of Mortar Board,



**MORGAN PROCHNOW**



*Vlasnik, a 2008 graduate, the 2017 Nebraska Teacher of the Year, will deliver the commencement address.*

she has been on the dean's academic honors list each semester while in college, and is a member of Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society and Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

University of Nebraska President Hank Bounds and NU Regent Bob Phares will address the graduates, as will Jack Kreman, president of the UNK Alumni Association LEAD Council.

The University Wind Ensemble, directed by Duane Bierman, UNK Director of Bands, will provide the processional "Konigsmarsch" by Richard Strauss; and "Pomp and Circumstance" by Edward Elgar. The national anthem will be performed by a trio of graduates: John Jacobs, Nolan Pribnow and Alyssa Wetovick.

Marilyn and Galen Hadley of Kearney will be the recipients, during the exercises, of the Cope Cornerstone of Excellence Award.

Doors to the UNK Health and Sports Center will open at 8:30 a.m. Parking in the west lots is encouraged. Visitors with handicap parking permits can park east of the Health and Sports Center. Family members transporting a handicapped person will have access to drop off the person on the east side of the complex, but will need to move their vehicle to another lot.

Visitors with wheelchairs can sit in the corner seating sections on the main floor or use the elevator in the northeast corner of the building to sit in the designated section on the arena floor. Individuals who have difficulties with steps should arrive at least an hour early to have access to seats just below the railings on the main floor or to obtain seating on the arena floor bleachers. Overflow areas will be available for watching in the HPER gym and HSC 150-151.

For those unable to attend in person, UNK commencement ceremonies are webcast at [www.unk.edu](http://www.unk.edu)

# FIRST LAVENDER GRADUATION THURSDAY

## RACHEL AREHART

*Antelope Staff*

The Women's Center will host UNK's first annual Lavender Graduation for students identifying as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Ally (LGBTQA) May 4 at 6 p.m. in the G. W. Frank Museum of History and Culture.

"Numerous universities across the country host Lavender Graduation as a way to recognize the accomplishments of students and allies in the LGBTQ community," said Kiphany Hof, Associate Director of UNK Counseling Care and the Women's Center.

Hof says the idea originated last year when Monica Mueller, the Associate Director in the Office of Multicultural Affairs and advisor to the Queer Straight Alliance organization (QSA), first approached her after learning about Lavender Graduation from QSA members.

"This celebration recognizes students who have been active members of the LGBTQIAA community on and off campus during their undergraduate career," said Anna Wagemann a senior English major with a women and gender studies minor from Omaha who is also a member of QSA.

Lavender Graduation ceremonies are held at over 150 college campuses around the nation, including all campuses of the University of Nebraska system. The ceremony was started by Dr. Ronni Sanlo, who was denied the opportunity to attend her children's graduation ceremonies because of her sexual orientation. Dr. Sanlo was encouraged by the Dean of Students at the University of Michigan to design what she called a Lavender Graduation in 1995, which celebrated three graduates.

"It surrounds the queer community in such tremendous positive energy for

**LAVENDER, PAGE 11**

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# Blue Gold Brigade honors graduates

*Organization focuses on building relationships with alumni, creating career networks, continuing Loper pride*

**KENNEDY SCHAEFFER**

*Antelope Staff*

Soon-to-be grads gathered in the Alumni House last Wednesday to celebrate and reflect on the memories made while attending UNK.

The Alumni Association hosts the celebration twice a year for soon-to-be graduates who join the Alumni Foundation and enjoy refreshments and the company of other seniors. One event hosted in December for the winter semester graduates and the second graduation event takes place at the end of April to host the spring graduates.

The annual graduation celebration in honor of senior accomplishments, the “Blue Gold Brigade,” is hosted by the UNK Alumni Association including Michelle Widger, UNK Alumni Association Assistant Director of Communications and Tricia Danburg, Assistant Director of Alumni Engagements.

Lea Stenslokken, a sociology major from Omaha attended the event. “It was a great way to reconnect with people I haven’t seen in a while and just catch up,” Stenslokken said.

Louie the Loper made an appearance, taking time to throw the ‘Lopes’ sign while taking a few photos with students. The graduation event provided refreshments for students and a relaxed atmosphere to take their minds off of the upcoming finals week and graduation.

Founded in 1981, Blue Gold Brigade has allowed students who graduate from UNK a chance to become a part of an organization that lasts long after their time on campus. The goal for the organization is focusing on building relationships with other Loper Alumni as well as creating career networks and continuing their Loper pride.

Students who join Blue Gold Brigade



*Photos by Kennedy Shaeffer*

1) Pictured left to right: Rachel Feddersen, Emily Owens, and Miranda Cherry helping serve refreshments and present prizes at the Blue Gold Brigade Wednesday evening.

2) Soon-to-be graduates enjoy an evening of refreshments and reflect on their time at UNK at the Blue Gold Brigade event hosted by the Alumni Association.

3) Lea Stenslokken (left) and Ashley Nielsen (right) show their Loper pride with Louie the Loper.

(BGBG) have the opportunity to attend alumni meetings once a month on a Sunday evening at the UNK Alumni House.

Blue and Gold Brigade dues are \$35 for a lifetime including a complimentary

BGBG T-shirt or \$10 a year. Alumni members also have the opportunity to further their involvement in the organization by apply for the BGBG Executive Board.

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# Lansman, Juhl maintain winning formula from HS

*Lansman's leadership on, off court has advanced Juhl's transition to college*

DAVID MUELLER

Antelope Sports

Trey Lansman and Kyle Juhl are no strangers on the hardwood. Their connection goes all the way back to early childhood, growing up together in Harlan, Iowa.

Separated by two years, both were standout athletes for the Harlan Cyclones across several different sports.

Yet, their playing time together was limited to basketball in high school. As a freshman, Juhl earned a spot on his high school's top tier varsity squad, which finished second at Iowa's Class 3A state tournament.

With Harlan's population just exceeding 5,000 citizens, Lansman and Juhl have helped put their small hometown on the map with their athletic achievements.

Lansman had never heard of Kearney before receiving a phone call from coach Kevin Lofton in high school. From there, he provided Juhl with valuable insight on the university, community and basketball program.

For Juhl, Lansman's presence has been beneficial in his transition to the collegiate level. They hope to capture the MIAA Championship and receive a bid to the national tournament in their final season next year.

**Q: What was your relationship like back in Harlan? How has it changed?**

Kyle: "We played the same sports, so we were friends and knew each other pretty well. It was more of an entire team thing; it wasn't just us individually being close. As a whole team we were all pretty close."

Trey: "It hasn't changed much. We all just kinda fit together as a team and play well together. Kyle fits in well here, so it's just kinda the same where we're all one team together and friends on the team."

**Q: What was your most memorable moment playing together in Harlan?**

Trey: "My junior year, Kyle was a freshman and played up on varsity with my little brother and we made it to the state championship. That was probably our best moment when we got second in state. We never got to play football together."

**Q: Harlan is a small community. What kind of support do you receive from back home?**

Kyle: "Harlan is really supportive. Usually a tweet goes out or something from our high school basketball coach or athletic director. They're really supportive of us."

**Q: What does it mean to your hometown for you both having achieved success at UNK?**

Kyle: "It shows that people from small towns still do great things at a bigger level."

**Q: How did you choose UNK? What kind of recruiting did you do with Kyle?**

Trey: "I was playing in St. Louis, and never had heard about Kearney; playing in an AAU tournament and coach Lofton called me and offered me a scholarship. I came on a visit; my head coach Mitch Osborne promoted this place. I just liked the atmosphere, the campus, playing with the guys."

"Any questions Kyle had I answered. Coach Lofton asked me if I liked Kyle's game, and I said yeah. I just answered questions."

**Q: How did you choose UNK? Did Trey have an influence on your decision?**

Kyle: "If I ever had any questions about anything I asked Trey. It was nice to know that I could go somewhere and have somebody there I already knew how to play with and know his style of game. I came on a visit and really liked it too. I liked the coaches and came and watched a few games my senior year and kinda liked their style of play. That was big for me. When coach Lofton called and offered me a scholarship I was excited, but I took my time to make my decision."



## Kyle Juhl

**Year:** Freshman

**Major:** Deciding

**Hometown:** Harlan, Iowa

*Photos by Todd Rundstrom*

Juhl was a pivotal bench player for the Lopers last winter, averaging 15.3 minutes per game as a freshman. He finished the season shooting 43 percent



## Trey Lansman

**Year:** Junior

**Major:** Health & P.E. K-12

**Hometown:** Harlan, Iowa

Lansman was selected the honorary captain of the Omaha World Herald Division II First Team squad on April 29. His averages of 19 points and 8.1 rebounds fueled the Lopers to 20 wins and a conference semifinal appearance.



# Q&A Kirsch looks back

*"I would say that my greatest role model growing up would have to be my dad."*



Courtesy

Brent and his dad shared the game they love. Brent's dad introduced him to the game and was his coach growing up.

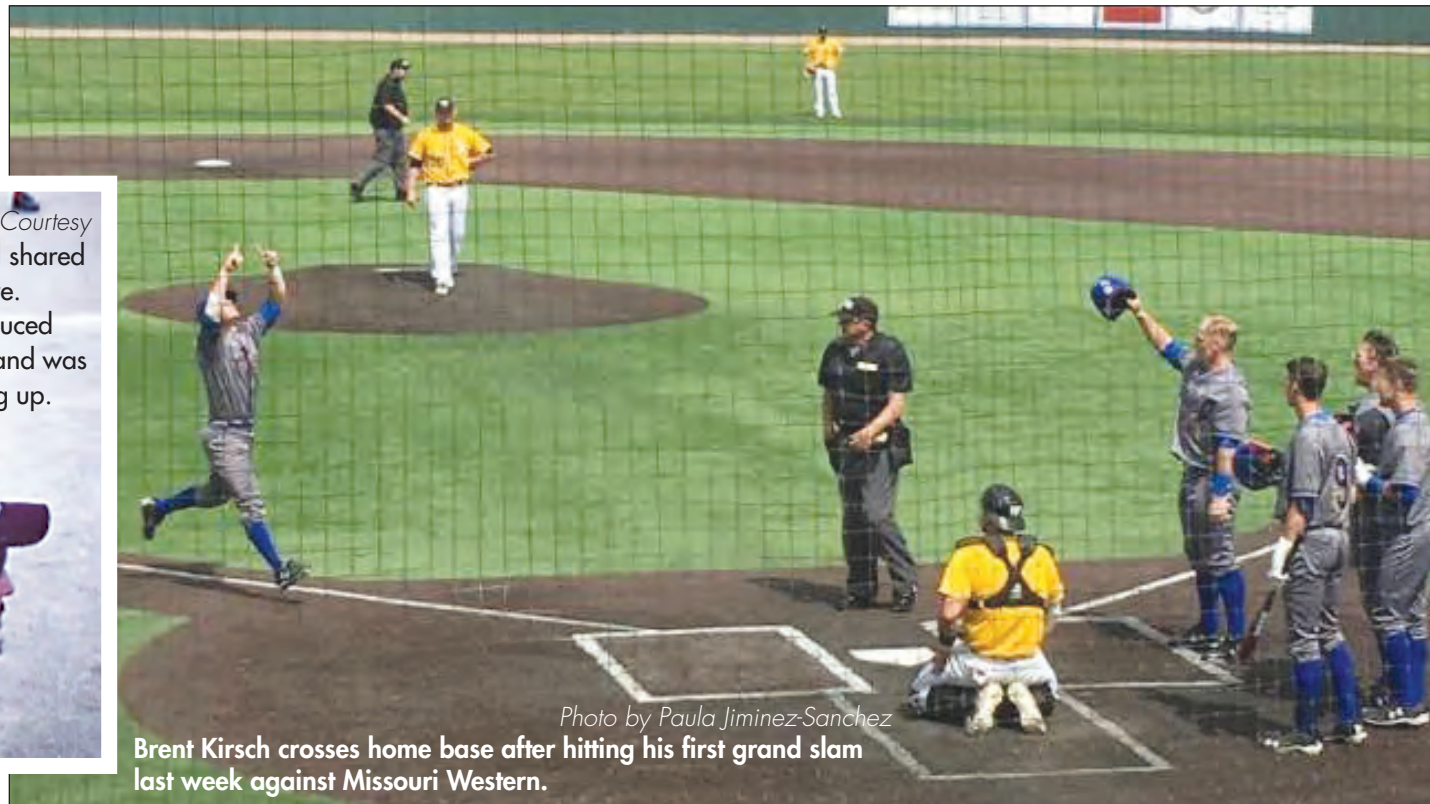


Photo by Paula Jiminez-Sanchez

Brent Kirsch crosses home base after hitting his first grand slam last week against Missouri Western.

**PAULA JIMINEZ-SANCHEZ**  
Antelope Sports

Brent Kirsch is a true senior from Papillion, a member of the UNK baseball team and is the only senior graduating this year that has started every single season as a Loper. Kirsch is a very competitive, resilient team player. He works hard on and off the field and strongly commits to achieve his goals.

Kirsch, a baseball lover since he was very little, has mostly played third base and right field. He will graduate this week with a bachelor of science degree in business administration with an emphasis in management.

## Q&A

**How did you get into playing baseball? When and why did you decide you wanted to play baseball on a competitive level like college?**

I started playing baseball when I was

about six years old. I was always around the sport growing up watching my older brother play. I decided my junior year of high school that I wanted to play baseball in college. I knew I wanted to continue to play because it was a game I loved that brought the joy of competitiveness and friendships.

**Why did you decide to attend UNK? What is the best thing that has happened to you at UNK?**

I ultimately decided to attend UNK because I was offered a scholarship to play baseball at UNK. The best thing that has happened to me at UNK is all of the friends and memories I have made. I have been able to create so many friendships on and off the field at UNK.

**If you could not play baseball in college, what other sport would you play?**

If I could play another sport in college I would love to play college basketball. Growing up I played basketball right along with baseball all the way through high school.

**Most memorable moment in**

**college?**

My most memorable moment in college would have to be when the baseball team made ESPN. My sophomore year we made ESPN TOP 10 plays twice. That was pretty cool to see myself and all of my teammates on ESPN.

**UNK's tagline is "We are Difference Makers." How do you think you can make a difference after you graduate?**

I think I can make a difference by taking everything I have learned here at UNK and applying it in my future career and community. My time at UNK I have been impacted by so many great people and will be able to help make a difference later on.

**What are your plans for the near future? How are you preparing for it?**

In my near future, I am looking to continue my college education. I am getting ready to graduate here in May, but I am looking to further my education next year.

**What are you most passionate about and why?**

I would say that I am most passionate

about baseball and my family. My whole life I have been around the game and it has impacted me in such a great way. My family is extremely important to me as well. I have an older brother and sister two nieces and a nephew. Then, of course, I have my loving and supportive mom, she comes to just about every baseball game I have no matter the distance.

**Who is your biggest role model? And your biggest mentor?**

I would say that my greatest role model growing up would have to be my dad. When I was 16 he passed away from cancer, and it was tough on my family and I. He was a great person to look up to whether it was for baseball, school, or life advice. My biggest mentor would have to be my coach here at UNK, Coach Day. Ever since he recruited me in high

KIRSCH, PAGE 11



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# Basketball senior Hogberg ready to walk

*After successful 4 years of academics, basketball, Alexa Hogberg is ready for graduation, new experiences*

**ELLEN LAIRD**  
Antelope Staff

Alexa Hogberg came to UNK four years ago from Chandler, Arizona, to play for the Loper basketball team. She came out of high school earning all-state, all-region and all city honors, with a winning record of 27-6 in 2013.



**HOGBERG**

Hogberg didn't have to wait long until she was starting her sophomore year and making her way onto the leader boards.

She adjusted quickly to the atmosphere and intensity of college ball while maintaining excellent school work.

With a career high of 21 points, Hogberg reached her PR three times, had a career high of eight field goals against

Fort Hays State on Jan. 30, 2016. In the same game, she tied a career high of four made threes.

The exercise science major ends her Loper career as the 2015 and 16 MIAA assist leader and 2016 All-MIAA. She racked up 290 assists out of the 85 games she has played, 50 of those having a starting position.

## Q&A

**After playing for four years for UNK what do you think you'll miss the most?**

The thing that I will miss the most is being part of a team, and the relationships that I have built with my teammates.

**As a student athlete was it difficult juggling homework, workouts, practice and games?**



Photo by Ellen Laird

Alexa Hogberg drives to the hoop to score against Washburn Ichabod's Jayna Smith. Hogberg plans to graduate this May and go on to work at the hospital in Kansas City until she goes onto nursing school at KU Med.

It was definitely something that I had to get used to. By no means is it easy, but it teaches you time management, and that is important.

**What aspects have you taken away from being a student athlete?**

I think the two most important ones for me that I took away from being a student athlete is discipline, and hard work. Nothing is going to be given to you, and you are entitled to nothing.

**Did you ever expect to end up on the leader boards for 2015 and 16 MIAA assist leader let alone starting all 29 games by your sophomore year?**

I honestly never thought I would, no.

I mean that is something that you strive for and hope to become, but it was a huge accomplishment for me.

**Going from high school ball to college ball, was it a big adjustment as far as game pace and atmosphere?**

Everything is different from high school to college. Everything is more competitive, faster and more intense. The adjustment hits you right away.

**What are your plans for after graduation?**

After graduation, I plan to move to Kansas City and work at the hospital until I go on to nursing school, hopefully at KU Med.

**Congratulations  
UNK graduates!**

Best of luck in all you do!



# Students tell of life in Netherlands

Courtesy

Keegan Franci stops on the steps overlooking historic Prague.

She says travel brought her out of her shell.



*It's beneficial and fun to take a break from being a tourist and become an active member in their society." - Keegan Franci*

**RACHEL PAPEZ**

Antelope Staff

Keegan Franci is currently studying abroad at the University College Roosevelt, an honors school located in the small town of Middelburg.

"I chose this program because I wanted to take classes that would count toward my major; I wanted to gain some independence and self-confidence from this trip."

Franci, who departed for the Netherlands in January, will be staying until May 23.

Franci feels the experience has built her confidence and motivation through school. "I've learned new academic techniques under a different school system here. It's made me more confident in my school work and motivation to work extra hard when I return. The classes are less lecture-based and more discussion oriented. I liked this because I could think for myself and not only share my own opinions, but hear the opinions from others. Classes are usually sparked with great discussion."

At the University College Roosevelt, students mostly speak English. Franci

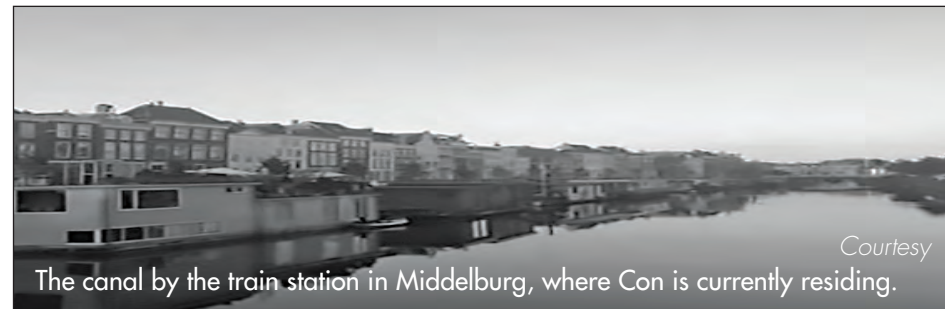
learned to read basic Dutch from watching TV, traveling on the public transportation systems and going to the grocery store. "I shy away from using my language skills, because I'm awful at speaking it and most people here in the Netherlands know English," she said.

The Netherlands culture is very different from the United States. Franci says, "I would say one of the biggest differences is the public transportation system. It's inconvenient relying on train or bus times to get somewhere. There isn't much restaurant culture here like there is in America, but that is mostly because it's generally more expensive to eat out."

Drinking is more socially acceptable in the European countries because people can drink at 18 years old. Franci's school has their own bar and organizes parties every Tuesday and Thursday. During a school intro week, the new students participated in a scheduled pub crawl organized by attending students and teachers.

Franci says she does not come out of her shell easily. In the past she says

—FRANCI, PAGE 11



Courtesy

The canal by the train station in Middelburg, where Con is currently residing.

*"Drop every assumption you have when you decide to travel abroad." – Erica Con*

**RACHEL PAPEZ**

Antelope Staff

Erica Con resides in Middelburg as well, except she lives there permanently. She used to attend UNK, but loved being abroad so much she decided to move. Con has yet to gain citizenship but wants to attend a school in Europe for her master's degree in international law and diplomacy, or maybe anthropology.

Con says living on her own abroad has taught her independence. "Being so far from my family and friends, as well as adjusting to a new culture, has taught me to make decisions more assertively. I am also learning to be more confident and loving with myself. It has forced me to leave so many comfort zones. I am learning skills that I didn't have before such as: cooking, navigating trains, speaking Dutch and German, and observing the peoples' customs," Con said.

Con says she has known English and Spanish since she was a toddler. "Knowing these languages has helped me to learn other languages such as French, German and Dutch," she said.

She says the romance languages are similar, so the learning process has been an easy transition for her. "I am now able to order simple things in Dutch, as well as, understand simple conversations and signs," she said.

Con took a year and a half of college-level German before starting to learn Dutch. She says this makes it easier to understand the grammar rules and pick up the language in the Netherlands.

"Drop every assumption you have when you decide to travel abroad," Con says. "The first thing you need to remember is that you don't know anything! This sounds harsh, but Americans are educated in a very biased way. I was already kind of aware of this when I came here, but studying in the Netherlands has made me a more humble person."

Con also warns against letting previous experiences make you biased. She says the main thing she has learned from living abroad is to be open-minded and realize that how she grew up in Nebraska creates a view the world that relates to her own experiences. "Dutch people are more laid back than people in the U.S.; they like to directly relay their views and do not

—CON, PAGE 11

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**FRANCL** from page 9

she was the type of person that couldn't do anything fun in public alone. "I always had to go with a friend due to social anxieties. Finally, I forced myself to travel to Germany to see a live performance by myself. It turned out to be one of the greatest nights of my life! I continue to surprise myself by the trips I end up accomplishing solo and how much fun I have by myself."

One of Franci's favorite memories from study abroad was traveling to Prague, Czech Republic, during spring break. "It is the most beautiful city; one could spend a week there easily just by looking at the stunning architecture." She also went north to Poland to see a Nazi death camp, "a sobering but enlightening experience."

Franci advises future study abroad

students: "Do whatever you can to really learn and be an active member in a new country, get to know their culture. I think some people spend too much time outside of their host country, when the best memories are from celebrating in the town you decide to travel to."

She said, "I would suggest making good friends with the people in your country and joining them on their typical nights out. It's beneficial and fun to take a break from being a tourist and become an active member in their society."

After college, Franci plans to teach for a couple of years abroad. She is thinking of moving to Prague and also wants to attend a grad school in order to receive a master's degree in history.

**CON** from page 9

hold back. I had to get used to their sense of humor because for a while I felt like I was being made fun of but they mean it in an affectionate sense.

"Life is different. Places close anytime from 6-8 pm and cars are not necessary because you can bike everywhere. Dutch people bike all the time and for long distances. If a Dutch person tells you something isn't a far walk or bike ride, don't believe them," Con chuckles, "because their idea of far is way different than ours."

Everyday things are different. "It's not acceptable to wear pajama pants in public, and you can't go to Wal-Mart and buy a gun or hard liquor. They don't have stores like Wal-Mart at all actually, only small stores that don't have everything you need in one place."

In the future, Con wants to work with troubled adolescents, possibly in the US

or in South America. Her goal is to make young people excited about learning and feels like she lots of knowledge to pass on.

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Department of Communication, said that he does not believe the media is blatantly making up facts and sources about Trump. “They don’t challenge every story; they only challenge the stories and commentary that is negative toward their party,” said Clark.

During the election cycle, several “fake news” websites circulated articles that were widely shared on Facebook. These fake news stories, now under investigation because of Russian origins, confused social media users.

“It’s deliberately fabricated to generate clicks, make money and, in some cases, alter the political debate,” Cokie and Steven Roberts said in the Kearney Hub article, “Facebook or Fakebook? Who is responsible”.

Kearney Hub’s opinion article “Don’t give ‘fake news’ a pass; expose its purveyors” said that “fakers rely on gullible, lazy Americans to consume their misinformation because it affirms what

## LAVENDER from page 4

graduates and underclassmen alike. It is also a validation of our hard work and persistent efforts to continually improve and strive for a future where gender and sexual equity are more attainable,” Wagemann said. She described the event as a “celebration of growth of maturation within the LGBTQIAA community.”

The lavender in the name comes from the horrible history of LGBTQIAA treatment. When in in concentration camps of Nazi Germany, gay men were designated with a pink triangle and lesbian women designated with a black triangle. The LGBT civil rights movement combined these symbols of hatred to make a color of pride of community.

“The Women’s Center wanted to do something to show our support and love for our LGBTQ students and allies, therefore, Lavender Graduation seemed to be a great way for us to celebrate with them,” Hof said.

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they want to believe, rather than what is really the truth”.

Facebook attempted to flag any confirmed fake news sites, but struggled with limiting freedom of expression on the social medium.

Facebook creator Mark Zuckerberg posted in November: “Anyone on Facebook can report any link as false, and we use signals from those reports along with a number of others — like people sharing links to myth-busting sites such as Snopes — to understand which stories we can confidently classify as misinformation. Similar to clickbait, spam and scams, we penalize this content in News Feed so it’s much less likely to spread.”

The Poynter Institute for Media Studies, a non-profit school for journalism located in St. Petersburg, Florida which hosts the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN), reported that the real problem with fake news is “citizen stupidity”. Neal Gabler wrote, “In effect,

## KIRSCH from page 7

school he has been extremely helpful and has taught me a lot over the years. He has been my mentor for four years now and I can happily say it will be a life long friendship.

**Q: Biggest challenges in life? How have those helped you be who you are today?**

A: I would say the biggest challenge in my life was when my dad passed away. It has brought me closer to my family and friends and has helped me become the person I am today. I know it would make him happy to see me play college baseball so every time I am on the field I play for him and do my best to make him proud.

**Q: What is your best advice for others? And for your younger self?**

A: The best advice that I have for others is to have big goals and try to better your self every single day. Be the best version of your self no matter the situation and always look to help others out when you can. If I had any advice for my younger self, I would tell him to dream big and do everything and anything to make the dream come true.

the American people are accessories in their own disinformation campaign. That is our current situation, and it is no sure thing that either truth or democracy survives.”

Gabler goes on to say, “In effect, the American people are accessories in their own disinformation campaign. That is our current situation, and it is no sure thing that either truth or democracy survives.”

Marilyn Synek, a UNK student currently working in the Nebraska Capitol and member of Young College Republicans says social media can be positive, that it’s important to keep elected officials in check by researching information they provide, through social media for example.

“No matter the source, we should always be proactive consumers about the information we learn in news stories. The media outlet one choses to get their news from is a personal choice. I have observed however that consumers usually prefer to get their news from outlets that have political biases that align with their political views,” Synek said.

Synek said she believes that there is legitimacy to President Trump’s concerns about fake news and the media, and that it is an issue about which we should all be concerned.

“News sources are for-profit entities, and therefore they have a compelling interest to increase their viewership by reporting enticing, dramatic stories,” Synek said.

Dr. Hanson says the exact same content will convince people of different things. “It tends to drive what we talk about in the news. Trump tweets about something and that’s what we start talking about in the news. It serves to shape conversation.”

“People who are conservatives and people who are liberals turn to different media. They like the media they go to and they distrust the media that they don’t go to. It is harmful for anyone who only gets their news from a single source,” Dr. Hanson said.

A research study conducted by Stanford University and New York University in January called “Social Media and Fake News in the 2016 Election” used

surveys and equations to conclude that the circulated “fake news” articles did not sway the recent presidential election as some people claimed.

The research concluded: “For fake news to have changed the outcome of the election, a single fake news story would need to have convinced about 0.7 percent of Clinton voters and non-voters who saw it to shift their votes to Trump, a persuasion rate equivalent to seeing 36 television campaign ads.”

Clark said that American people should diversify their sources of news, and that problems arise when people turn to only one media outlet for stories, which can lead to slanted opinions and not getting all of the facts. Clark added: “Many people have problems differentiating between news and commentary,” which is bad because commentary is “completely slanted” one way or the other.

Several times while tweeting about fake news, Donald Trump has mentioned changing the libel laws, as in his tweet on March 30 where he said: “The failing @nytimes has disgraced the media world. Gotten me wrong for two solid years. Change libel laws?” Trump believes this change would allow him to sue the news media when he believes they are reporting false information about him. Currently it is a law in the United States that “actual malice” has to be proven for a journalistic medium to be sued for false information in a news story.

Poynter reported that changes to the libel laws in the U.S. would require each state to individually make their laws less favorable to the media, but libel laws have been specifically protecting the media for decades, so it is highly unlikely for anything to change.

In a Poynter interview, Kevin Golberg, a First Amendment attorney at Fletcher, said, “...If there is any likely change to libel-related laws as a result of Donald Trump the individual or Donald Trump the government official, it is likely to come in the form of increased protection for libel defendants who face a potential increase in frivolous lawsuits of the type he has filed (and lost) in the past.”

# Bruha looks back on valuable years

*Graduating senior enjoyed her time at UNK and plans to return to continue her education*

**ABBIE ROHR**  
*Antelope Staff*

Graduating senior Ashley Bruha, an English writing major from Ord, found things she values most through her education at UNK.

Bruha originally chose UNK because it was affordable and close to home. She said a number of people from her high school spoke highly of this particular university.



BRUHA

But, after completing her undergraduate studies, she sees that UNK was much more than that. “Each professor is able to give their students a personalized experience.

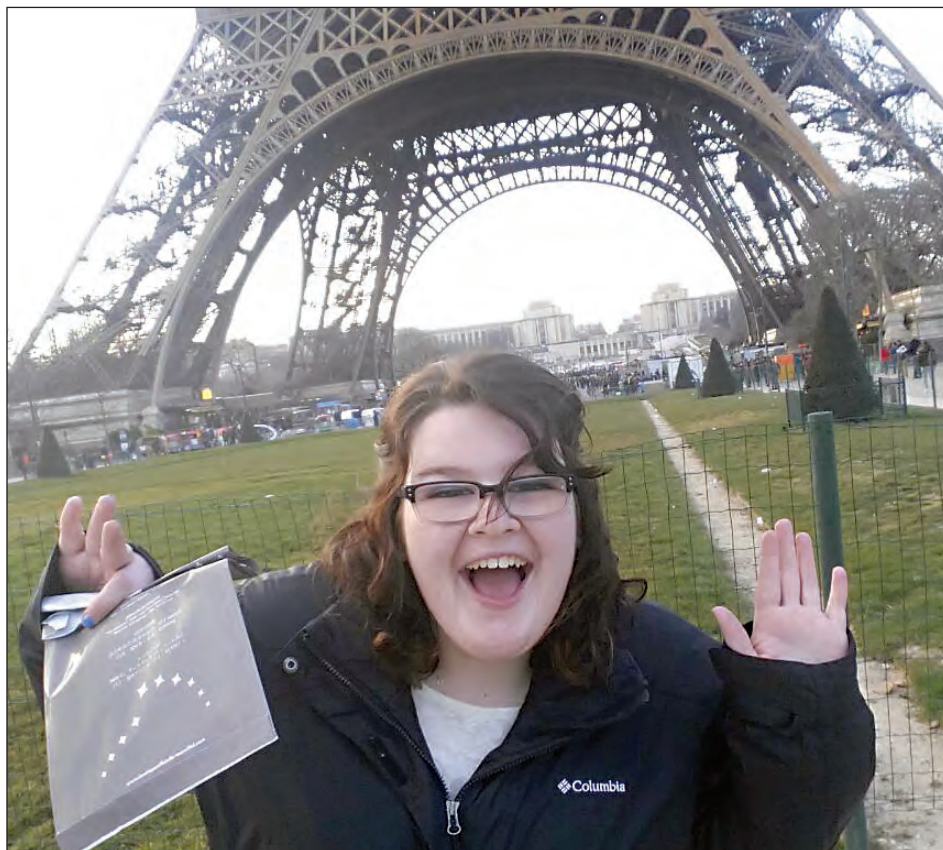
Most professors who I have taken class with have made a point to learn my name and the things I value most,” Bruha said.

The campus was made up of 600 students, so the experience was quite different from her time at UNK. “It is also an International University, so a number of the students were from other countries. I loved being surrounded by a diverse population. While I was studying in the Netherlands, I also had the opportunity to visit France and Belgium,” she said.

Bruha was in Belgium at the time of the terrorist attack in Brussels, Belgium. “Although it was a scary and stressful time, it was amazing to see different countries work together to help the citizens of Brussels,” Bruha said of the tragic situation.

Though Bruha was confronted with a terrorist attack during her study abroad experience, she still says that studying abroad was the best time of her life, and she actually hopes to move back to the Netherlands.

The Netherlands wasn’t the only place she traveled during her time at UNK; she



*Courtesy*

Ashley a senior, English writing major from Ord shows excitement while visiting France during her study abroad experience at the University College Roosevelt an honors college with 600 students.

“Some of my most memorable times at UNK were the opportunities provided through the study abroad department.

/ Bruha

While at UNK, Bruha not only went above and beyond in her course work as she is graduating with the highest honors, but she also took advantage of opportunities that she believes have changed her life. “Some of my most memorable times at UNK were the opportunities provided through the study abroad department,” she said.

During the spring semester of 2016 Bruha packed her bags and flew across the world to Middelburg, Netherlands, to study at the University College Roosevelt. “UCR is an Honors University, so the courses were quite challenging, but I learned a lot of valuable information,” she said.

also won a trip to Vancouver, Canada, through the study abroad department’s essay writing contest.

Though Bruha is graduating, she is not yet saying goodbye to UNK. “I will begin graduate school in the fall of 2017 at UNK. My degree will be an MA in creative writing,” she said, “After I obtain my MA, I will move back to the Netherlands and teach at a university or a secondary school. Eventually, I plan to get a Ph.D. in applied linguistics.”

Bruha’s advice to current or future students is to “Avoid taking 19 credit hours during your last semester and take time to enjoy college. It is great to finish in three years, but it was unnecessarily stressful.”

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**Thank you for all of your time and hard work this semester. We couldn't have done it without each and every one of you!**